GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3638
ANSWERED ON:18.04.2005
TASK FORCE ON AGRI-BIOTECH POLICY UNDER M.S. SWAMINATHAN COMMITTEE
Rao Shri Sambasiva Rayapati

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has examined the recommendations made by the M.S. Swaminathan Committee;

(b) if so, whether consultations were held with other ministries;

(c) if so, the outcome thereof;

(d) whether the said Committee has recommended the setting up of a regulatory authority for agri-biotechnology and expansion of testing infrastructure;

(e) if so, the total investment required for the same; and

(f) by when it is likely to be implemented?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTI LAL BHURIA)

(a): Yes, Sir.

(b): Yes, Sir.

(c): The other ministries have generally supported the recommendations of the Task Force except that Ministry of Environment & Forests have somewhat divergent views on setting up of National Biotech Regulatory Authority and some other procedural matters.

(d) & (e): The Task Force has recommended setting up of a National Biotech Regulatory Authority to deal with biotechnological applications in pharmaceuticals as well as agriculture. The total investment required for setting up of National Biotech Regulatory Authority as estimated by the Task Force was Rs.150 crores for the three year period.

(f): The Government has not so far decided to set up National Biotech regulatory Authority.